

FY03 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, OPERATIONAL AREA

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A brief description of areas encompassed within the Operational Area

The County of San Bernardino is geographically the largest county in the continental United States, encompassing over 20,000 square miles, 24 cities and towns and a population of approximately 1.7 million. San Bernardino County is also experiencing some of the most rapid growth in the State whose infrastructure and resources are critical to the U.S. economy.

Threats/Targets most likely for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE)

The County is host to vast systems of communication, transportation, industry, government and economic entities including, but is not limited to identified critical facilities, transportation corridors, four major interstate railroads; interstate CalNEV pipelines; interstate highways that are major connectors to the East Coast, Northern California and Mexico; and of course, the California Aqueduct that brings drinking water from Northern California to all of Southern California all of which represent likely targets for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive threats.

A description of how equipment, exercises and planning /administration addresses overall Operational Area needs as identified in FY99 Needs Assessment

In accordance with guidelines of the FY99 Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Needs Assessment, the county identified its potential exposures to all Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) events including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE). The Terrorism-Working Group focused on the potential large-scale effects of WMD's. Based on the projections contained in the Needs Assessment, we find that there are no significant changes in equipment needs for the purposes of this FY03 grant program. Gaps still remain to be filled to fully equip larger numbers of first responders in the areas of personal protective equipment and specialized equipment for specialized teams such as the inter-agency hazmat and arson/bomb teams. FY03 equipment purchases will continue to fill gaps in equipment to prepare responders over the vast regions of the Operational Area. Exercises will be conducted at local and countywide levels, which will address the issue of vast geographical, target and population differences which will provide increased operational readiness throughout the OA. The planning/administration funds will offset personnel costs for managing the grant and help to fulfill the need for an updated needs assessment in FY03.

PRIORITIES

A description of how equipment, exercise, and planning/administration prioritizations were developed

As mandated by the State Office of Homeland Security, an Anti-Terrorism Approval Authority was formed to provide executive oversight to the grant consisting of the County Sheriff, County Fire Chief, County Health Officer a representative from Municipal Fire, and a representative from the Police Chief's. The approval body directed the OA to follow the grant formula of 20% Law, 20% Fire, 20% EMS and the 40% discretionary allocated to the OA Regional Grant Terrorism Working Group to continue to secure resources for regional county-wide benefit as has been done with the previous OJP grants. It is important to note that the 40% discretionary allocation was split among the four disciplines of Fire, Law, EMS and Hazmat and is so reflected in the budget detail worksheets. Prioritization of equipment and exercises were based upon the FY99 needs

assessment. Prioritization of the planning/ administration funds was set by the OA in full consultation and approval by the Approval Body.

Explanation of selection criteria for distribution of the three priorities: Equipment, Exercise and Planning /Administration

Equipment

The FY99 Needs Assessment provided the basic guide by which selections of FY03 equipment were made. Protection of identified numbers of first responder personnel is primary. Tier 1 gaps must continue to be the focus. As such, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for first responders, and decontamination equipment both for responders and potential victims, remain the priorities. The capability to initiate a broad response to a WMD event must be ensured. In the course of completing the FY99 Needs Assessment, and in continuing inventories and program analysis since that time, the OA has developed a fair sense of where and to what extent PPE decontamination and specialty resources gaps exist. The grant request reflects that analysis. County Fire and HazMat group members assessed existing fire facilities, and HazMat teams and developed a list of needs. County Sheriff reviewed the level of law enforcement staff, including the bomb squad, training in such response and developed a list accordingly. Zone coordinators worked with local jurisdictions, with emphasis on those that do not contract with County Fire and Law to determine their PPE and decontamination needs. Analysis was also made to ensure no other current funding sources existed in order to most effectively utilize the FY03 funding.

While remaining gaps in PPE and decontamination will be addressed in FY03, broader areas of need such as communications, detection and specialized mitigation equipment will be a major focus for FY03.

Exercises

Exercise needs were evaluated through a multi disciplinary approach using the FY99 needs assessment and the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) as guides to benefit local and countywide jurisdictions.

Planning/Administration

Recognizing that an updated needs assessment is required in September of 2003, the approval body earmarked all of the planning/administration allocation for managing the grant and the Needs Assessment.

Equipment Priorities

See attached budget detail worksheets

Exercises

A description of how the exercise allocation meets the Operational Areas overall needs and supports Mutual Aid (per FY99 Needs Assessment)

The reimbursable allocation of \$321,734 will meet the exercise needs of the OA by providing the financial resources to conduct local, regional and countywide exercises. These exercises as described below will allow multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary participation in controlled exercise environments testing response, personnel and resource capabilities. This approach, by its very nature, will address and exercise the mutual aid component, which occurs currently in real world mutual aid response configuration.

A brief description of most likely threat(s) to the Operational Areas, its current capabilities to mitigate an attack and recent exercises performed

The most likely threat to the OA would be a CBRNE attack at Ontario Airport or entertainment venue such as California Speedway or Hyundai Pavilion (*formerly Blockbuster Pavilion*). The current OA capabilities to deal with such threats remain deficient as indicated in the original 1999 needs assessment as illustrated by the large amounts of PPE's purchased as detailed in the attached budget detail worksheets. There have been several exercises in the past year with the Annual 9th Civil Support Federal Evaluation field drill and exercise being the most recent.

Exercise Measurable Program Objectives (MPO's)

Exercise types

- Tabletop (discussion, focused and field support)
- Field
- Functional

Exercise number and frequency

- Exercise numbers will vary depending on agency and their ability to fund in advance of reimbursements. It is estimated that as many as four regional exercises could be conducted and numbers of smaller exercises in smaller jurisdictions could be accomplished.
- Exercises may be conducted semi-annually or annually.

Exercise participants

- Up to as many as 40 different jurisdictions representing all first responder disciplines could be participants in the aforementioned exercise types.

Planning and Administration

A description of how existing/emerging threats make it necessary for the Operational Areas to update the FY99 Needs Assessment and Strategy

The existing threats to the Operational Area, as indicated in the aforementioned section of likely threats and targets for CBRNE, remain applicable in this section. The need to update the FY99 Needs Assessment remains to be seen as it has not been fulfilled completely.

While the FY99 Needs Assessment and Strategy provided a wide overview of the needs in the San Bernardino County Operational Area and still remains accurate as a wide overview, more specific planning and fine-tuning needs to be done to help ensure the specific Anti-Terrorism equipment and training needs of the individual jurisdictions that comprise the Operational Area are met.

A brief explanation of how the update process involves all jurisdictions, supports Mutual Aid and will be completed by September 30, 2003

Due to the time constraints involved in the development of the original needs assessment for FY99, many assumptions had to be made and there was no time to complete a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction needs assessment process. We intend to complete such a process through a detailed survey of each jurisdiction that will be sent out soon. Through this assessment, we will have a much better understanding of the equipment and training each jurisdiction has and what additionally is needed. Through this process, future grant monies can be allocated to needed areas more precisely. This, in turn, will assist the individual jurisdictions in being more effective in responses to terrorist activities in their areas, as well as being better prepared to provide for Mutual Aid when called upon. Surveys will be sent out by May 31, due to the County by July 31, then compiled and submitted to the State Office of Homeland Security by September 30, 2003 deadline.